

In the claims:

Please **amend** the currently pending claims by substituting the following:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A data set selecting apparatus connectable to a plurality of external storage devices, each storage device including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets that belong to the allotted data group, said apparatus comprising:

~~a storage medium including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group;~~

a display screen;

a storage device selector for selecting a storage device from amongst said plurality of external storage devices;

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~~a plurality of data group selection controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said plurality of data groups individually and selects a data group allotted to said each data group selecting control;~~

a data group allocator for individually allocating, to each of said plurality of data group selecting controls, each of said data groups corresponding allotted to each of said plurality of storage areas included in said storage device selected by said storage device selector, wherein said plurality of data group selecting controls are capable of selecting said allocated data groups;

a display controller which causes said display screen to list a plurality of identifiers, each representing each of said plurality of data sets belonging to said selected data group as selected by said allocated data group selecting control; and

C1 a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said identifiers being listed on said display screen and selects a data set represented by said identifier allotted to said each data set selecting control, wherein said data set selecting controls are three-dimensional controls located separately and outside of the display screen, each of which are correspondingly located near the allocated identifier listed.

Claim 2 (original) A data set selecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control panel, and wherein said display screen is provided on said control panel, and said data group selecting controls are arranged on said control panel.

3. (currently amended) A method for selecting data sets from among data sets stored in a ~~storage medium~~ plurality of external storage devices, each including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group, said method comprising:

a step of selecting a storage device from amongst said plurality of external storage devices;

a step of individually allocating, to each of a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of said data groups correspondingly allotted to each of said plurality of storage areas included in said storage device selected by said step of selecting a storage device;

a step of selecting a data group including the data sets belonging thereto and stored in the allotted storage area of said selected storage device ~~storage medium~~, by using a plurality of data group selecting controls, ~~each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said plurality of data groups individually;~~

a step of displaying, on a display screen, a list of identifiers, each representing each of said data sets included in said selected data group; and

a step of selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, by using a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said data set individually, wherein said plurality of data set selecting controls are three-dimensional controls located separately and outside of the display screen, each of which are correspondingly located near the allocated identifier listed.

4. (currently amended) A storage medium for use in an apparatus for selecting data sets, said apparatus being of a data processing type comprising a computer, a display screen, a plurality of data group selecting controls, and a plurality of data set selecting controls, said storage medium connectible to a plurality of external storage devices, each storage device said medium including a plurality of storage areas, each storage area being correspondingly allotted to each of a plurality of data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group, said plurality of data set selecting controls being three-dimensional controls located separately and outside of the display screen, each of which are correspondingly located near the allocated identifier listed, and said medium ~~further~~ containing a set of executable instructions for causing a computer to perform the steps of ~~program that is executable by the computer, the program comprising:~~

receiving input for selecting a storage device from amongst said plurality of external storage devices;

individually allocating, to each of a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of said data groups correspondingly allotted to each of said plurality of storage areas included in the selected storage device;

~~a module of~~ selecting a data group including data sets belonging thereto and stored in the allotted storage area of said storage medium, by using a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said plurality of data groups individually;

~~a module of~~ displaying, on said display screen, a list of identifiers, each representing each of said data sets included in said selected data group; and

~~a module of~~ receiving input from said data set selecting controls for selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, ~~by using said plurality of~~

c/ ~~data set selecting controls,~~ wherein each of ~~which~~ data set selecting control is correspondingly allocated for each of said data set individually.
